

---

Julia Sherman <julsherman@hotmail.com>  
Thursday, March 21, 2013 6:28 AM  
AppropriationTestimony  
Protect the Retired Teacher's Health Fund

Dear Committee:

Forgive me for not attending the hearing, I have students in a classroom that need their adult mentor. For many of us the choice to teach was weighed against other, more lucrative careers. We do our job because we love people; kids that grow up to be productive Connecticut citizens....and we felt secure knowing that the community would take care of our basic needs. I have paid into this health fund for 36 years, and I would not be surprised if I don't ever use all the money I could have gotten had I invested this money.

Your education system is only as good as the people you attract to come and spend all day with your kids...don't drive good people away from our profession by taking away a benefit that really, is a simple necessity of life. And, don't pull the rug out from us older folks who planned on your support at the end of our earning potential! Don't break your promises to the people who are the backbone of our society.

There are many kids whose only conversation with adults occurs in the school. (Especially teens.) For many kids we supply the only encouragement and strategies for going forward on a positive path. Even in the olden days, families had to take the teacher into their home, feed and care for them. Is there a family out there that would like to take over my expenses, take me in? If you take this small contribution, to which we also have placed our own skin in the game, you are taking away the basic respect teachers have EARNED.

Additionally we are a great insurance bet. Most of the teachers I know are healthier than the general population...we are role models for goodness sake...we have to keep our noses clean! So I would think these insurance costs are a lot less than for the rest of the population.

Gotta go...I need to get my classroom up and running for my kids. Thanks for listening....

A teacher for life,

*Julia Sherman*  
43 Pinewoods Lane  
Mansfield Center, CT 06250  
860-423-8111